Precautionary steps for temperature rise

1968. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has sent a letter to the wheat growing States to take precautions against abnormal temperature rise; and

(b) if so, the precautionary steps, the State Government are taking for creating favourable climate for the wheat crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The major wheat growing States *viz.* Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab had been sensitized to ensure adequate irrigation water and electricity in wheat growing districts of the States to mitigate the impact of rise in temperature.

(b) The farmers have been advised to apply frequent light irrigation in case temperature rises abnormally. Besides, balanced use of fertilizers has also been promoted to minimize the adverse effect of high temperature.

Setting up of National Agriculture Risk Fund

†1969. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding setting up of the National Agriculture Risk Fund is under consideration of Government:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of governmental and non-governmental agencies which would be involved in the said Fund; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to consider any such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Commission on Farmers (NCF) has recommended for setting up of an Agriculture Risk Fund to insulate farmers from risks arising from recurrent droughts and other weather aberrations. The Government is, at present; examining the recommendations of NCF.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.